



2000 POST OAK BOULEVARD / SUITE 100 / HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056-4400

URBAN F. (OBIE) O'BRIEN, III
Director,
Governmental & Regulatory Affairs and Corporate Outreach

Telephone (713) 296-6150
Facsimile (713) 296-6979

September 27, 2006

Ms. Renee Orr
5-Year Program Manager
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010)
Room 3120
381 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170

Mr. James F. Bennett
Chief, Branch of Environmental Assessment
5-Year DEIS
381 Elden Street (MS-4042)
Herndon, VA 20170

Subject: Comments on Proposed 5-Year Program for 2007-2012 and Draft EIS for the 5-Year Program for 2007-2012

Dear Ms. Orr and Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program and draft environmental impact statement. Apache Corporation strongly supports expanded oil and gas leasing from the 1.6 billion acre Outer Continental Shelf for the 2007-2012 program.

Apache supports the areas identified for leasing during the 2007-2012 program, including the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico areas, the areas in Alaska, and the area off the Virginia coast, and encourages the agency to include other areas, as well.

We recognize the vast resources of the Outer Continental Shelf and encourage further development of these domestic resources. Apache believes opening more areas to drilling is in the nation's best interest as it increases domestic supply and enhances U.S. energy security. The 2007-2012 Program will define the shape and scope of domestic offshore energy development opportunities and determine the extent to which the nation is committed to addressing its growing energy supply problems. Apache supports a plan which is as broad as possible, flexible enough to respond to changes in the status of offshore areas, and structured in a manner that provides a predictable and reliable lease sale schedule to allow companies to expeditiously explore for and develop hydrocarbons.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have demonstrated the shortsightedness of limiting our energy production to one small area of the OCS. We urge the agency to learn from the lessons of Katrina and Rita as it develops the new 5-Year Program, and give the plan maximum flexibility, adding to the areas included in the Proposed Program, in order to respond to our nation's energy needs, economic growth and national security during the period of 2007-2012.

Apache thanks the Department of Interior for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Program and draft environmental impact statement. We trust you will consider our views as you prepare the final program and environmental impact statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Urban O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Urban" and last name "O'Brien" clearly distinguishable.

Urban F. O'Brien, III
Director
Governmental and Regulatory Affairs